sought for providing infrastructure facilities to newspaper industry in the country during each of the last three years and currente years; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange allocated for the purpose during the above period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMEHSWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Foreign. exchange expenditure on imports and other inputs in connection with setting up of printing and other facilities by the newspaper industry is regulated by the provisions of Import-Export Policy and other relevant rules and regulations. No separate allocation of foreign exchange specifically for this purpose is made. However, the Registrar of Newspapers for India functions as the sponsoring authority in the case of import of licensed capital goods and restricted items by the bonafide newspaper establishments. The value of the imports recommended by the Registrar of Newspapers for India amounted to Rs. 4.06 crores, Rs.8.97 crores, Rs. 4.95 crores and Rs. 0.10 crores during the calender years 1989, 1990 and 1991 and the current year respectively.

Grant of licences to Garment exporters

3787. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to take early decision on applications received for advance licence under tax exemption scheme to promote export of cotton and mixed yarn, cotton garments and ready-made Garments and to provide cotton to exporters at international prices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). Director general of International Trade has already made an announcement that the advance Licences for duty free import of raw materials, for which input-output norms are available under Appendix 13'C' of Import & Export Policy, will be cleared with in fifteen days. This decision covers import of raw material under Advance Licensing Scheme by Garment exporters also.

[*English*]

Commission to LIC Agents

3788. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporations paying commission to the agents for securing business;

(b) if so, the rates paid at present and is if a one time payment or continuous process till the maturity of policy;

(c) the total amount of commission paid by different divisions of Life Insurance Corporation separately during 1989-90,1990-91 and 1991-92;

(d) whether the Government propose to allow the same margin of commission to the policy holders if they directly approach the policy holders if they directly approach the corporation for insurance without the media of agents;

(e) if not the reasons therefor;

(f) whether there is any proposal to abolish the present system of engaging agents for securing business for Life Insurance Corporation; and